

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Form 10-300
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Halifax	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 10609	DATE 1/25/71

1. NAME			
COMMON: Berry Hill			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Berry Hill			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: .6 mi. S of Rt. 659, 1.5 mi. S of intersection of Rt. 659 and Rt. 682.			
CITY OR TOWN: South Hill vicinity			
STATE Virginia	CODE 45	COUNTY: Halifax	CODE 083
3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>		Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>
		Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNERS NAME: L. E. Watkins Ms. B.W. Short			
STREET AND NUMBER: 10609 Harborough Way			
CITY OR TOWN: South Hill			
STATE: Virginia		CODE 45	Virginia COUNTY: Halifax
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Halifax County Court House			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Halifax		STATE: Virginia	CODE 45
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1275.46 acres			
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1941 Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/>			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington		STATE: District of Columbia	CODE 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One) Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	<div>(Check One)</div> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <div>(Check One)</div> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The large Greek Revival mansion that is Berry Hill actually incorporates an earlier red brick house. The exact form of the earlier house is difficult to determine, however portions of its fabric are extant in the rear of the present house. The result of James Coles Bruce's remodeling is apparent chiefly in the two-story stuccoed facade of five bays. The distinguishing feature of the facade is the great octastyle Greek Doric pedimented portico which stretches across the entire front. Flanking the principal building are two matching one-story outbuildings - the office and the schoolroom. These buildings are both temple-form and have tetrastyle Greek Doric pedimented porticoes.

The most important interior feature of Berry Hill is the entrance hall with its superb pair of stairs which curve after a long run and meet overhead. Directly behind the entrance hall is the dining room with its fireplace on axis. To the left of the hall is a pair of drawing rooms, both having deep Greek Revival cornices decorated with water leaf mouldings. The drawing rooms also contain fine marble Empire mantels with caryatid supports. An interesting feature of the house is the conservatory behind the second drawing room. This conservatory with its large windows is one of the earliest in the country to be built within the main mass of the house.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian ☐

16th Century ☐

18th Century ☐

20th Century ☐

15th Century ☐

17th Century ☐

19th Century ☒

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal ☐

Education ☐

Political ☐

Urban Planning ☐

Prehistoric ☐

Engineering ☐

Religion/Phi-

Other (Specify) ☐

Historic ☐

Industry ☐

losophy ☐

Agriculture ☐

Invention ☐

Science ☐

Art ☒

Landscape ☐

Sculpture ☐

Commerce ☐

Architecture ☐

Social/Human-

Communications ☐

Literature ☐

itarian ☐

Conservation ☐

Military ☐

Theater ☐

Music ☐

Transportation ☐

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

James Coles Bruce inherited from his father a tract of land in Halifax County which was once owned by William Byrd of Westover. On this land stood a red brick house with two principal outbuildings. Bruce had the house transformed (circa 1839) into one of the greatest Greek Revival mansions in the country and certainly the purest in style of Virginia's surviving Greek Revival houses. Berry Hill is also one of the last large plantation houses to be built in Virginia. It is thought that the architect Bruce chose for this remodeling was John E. Johnson, the architect of Bruce's half brother's house, Staunton Hill. The great octastyle portico of the house was based on that of the Parthenon. William B. O'Neal noted of Berry Hill that "Its isolated site lends an almost overpoweringly romantic aura to the distinction of its carefully executed portico flanked by two small Doric pavilions. The entire composition is on as grand a scale as any of Virginia's domestic architecture, with the possible exception of the Governor's Palace at Williamsburg."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Nichols, Frederick D., "Mansions that Merchandising Built", Arts in Virginia, Vol. 6, No. 3, Spring 1966.

O'Neal, William B., Architecture in Virginia, New York: Walker and Company, 1968.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	36° 43' 10"	78° 58' 08"		36° 41' 54"	78° 56' 40"	
NE	36° 43' 10"	78° 55' 50"				
SE	36° 41' 05"	78° 55' 50"				
SW	36° 41' 05"	78° 58' 08"				

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE: April 25, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

Name

Dr. Edward P. Alexander

Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman

Title

Virginia Historic Landmarks Comm.

Date

June 2, 1969

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest Allen Corns
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

NOV 25 1969

Date

ATTEST:

William J. Swartz
Keeper of The National Register

Date

NOV 7 1969

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Halifax	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69-11-95-6110	11/25/69

(Number all entries)

6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
1968 Federal
Library of Congress
Washington, D. C. Code: 08

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #41-4
1968 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building
Richmond, Virginia 23219 Code: 45

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Halifax	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Berry Hill

Berry Hill

Statement of Significance: NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Berry Hill, located in the rural seclusion of Halifax County, Virginia, achieved its present form between 1835 and 1840 when the owner, James Cole Bruce, completely redesigned and greatly enlarged an earlier brick house. The result, possibly the work of John E. Johnson, the architect of Staunton Hill, has come to be regarded as the quintessence of domestic Greek Revival architecture in the United States. The main two-story house faces a large rectangular grassed forecourt. Flanking the main house and some distance in front of it are two identical service pavillions which face each other. Across the entire front of the main house is a monumental octastyle Greek Doric pedimented portico in imitation of the Parthenon. The full Doric entablature continues around the other three sides of the house. The service pavillions have tetrastyle Greek Doric porticoes that echo that of the main house. The interior of the house has an unusual double stair in the front hall. However it is the exterior design of the three buildings and the perfectly balanced relationship of their scale and placement that raises Berry Hill to the level of a masterpiece.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Halifax	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Berry Hill property description:

Bounded on the north by intersection of Rt. 682 and Rt. 659. Bounded on the east, from the intersection, by Rt. 682 and the western city limits of South Boston. Bounded on the west, from the intersection (of Rt. 682 and Rt. 659), by Rt. 659 until longitude 78° 57' 10". Bounded on the south by Dan River.

Form 10-301
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

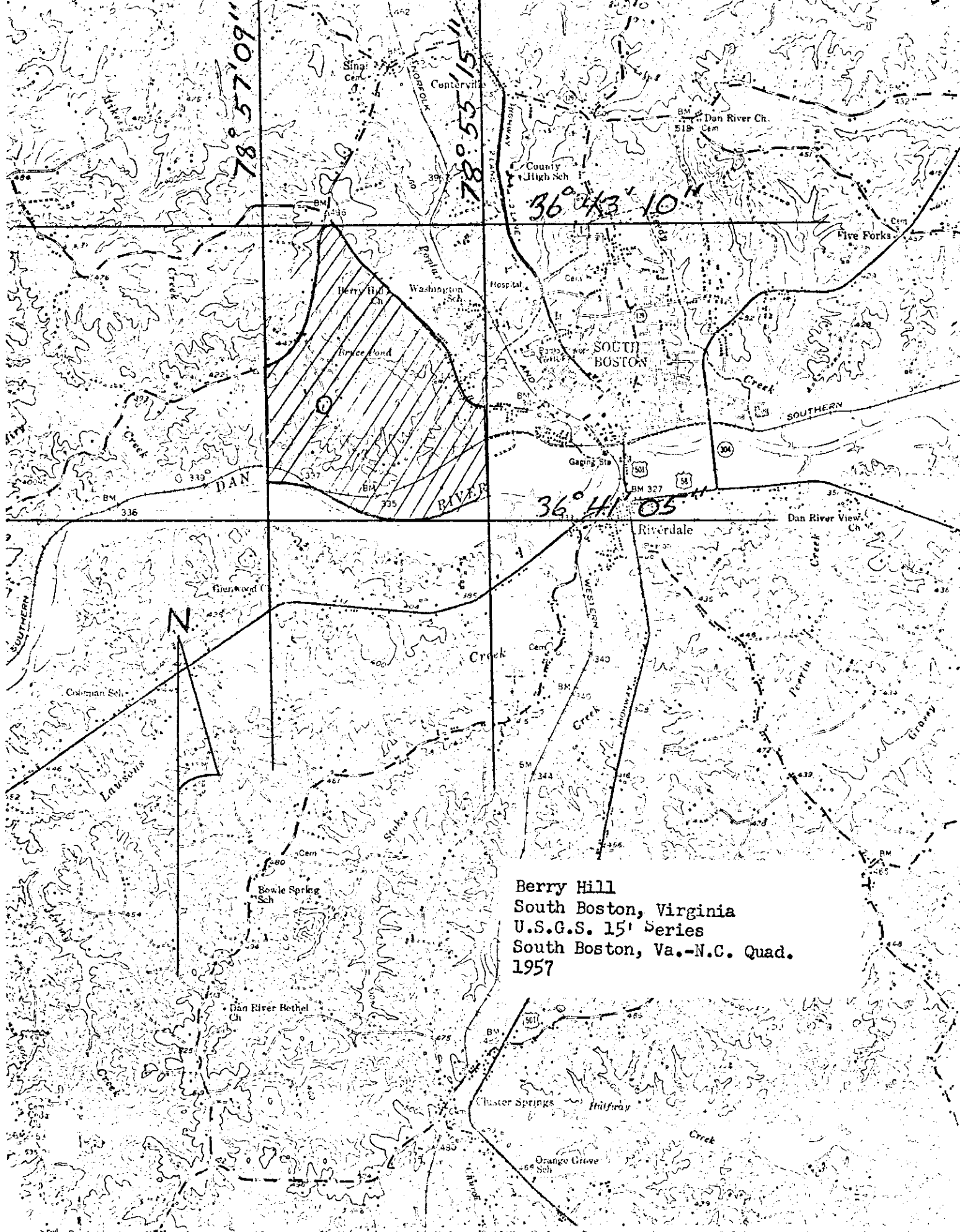
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Halifax	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69-11-45-0110	11/25/69

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Berry Hill			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Berry Hill			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: .6 mi. S of Rt. 659, 1.5 mi. S of intersection of Rt. 659 and Rt. 682.			
CITY OR TOWN:			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	45	Halifax	083
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 15', quadrangle South Boston, Va.			
SCALE: 1:62500			
DATE: 1957			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



Berry Hill
South Boston, Virginia
U.S.G.S. 15' Series
South Boston, Va.-N.C. Quad.
1957